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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05412 140918Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 L-03 PM-04 SP-02 MMO-04
USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 /047 W
----------141334Z 067128 /46
R 140902Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6964

UNCLAS TOKYO 5412

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, JA
SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF VOA/OKINAWA

1. EMBASSY FEELS THAT SCHEDULED TRANSFER OF NEILL WESTERDALE, MANAGER OF VOA/OKINAWA RELAY STATION, IN JUNE IS INADVISABLE AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIS TOUR EXTENDED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. WESTERDALE IS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR WITH OKINAWA LANDLORD GROUPS FOR RETURN/RESTORATION OF VOA'S THREE STATIONS IN OKINAWA AND IS ALSO IN CHARGE OF PLANNING REMOVAL/DISPOSITION OF VOA EQUIPMENT AFTER CLOSEDOWN. TO CHANGE NEGOTIATOR, WHO HAS VERY ABLY PUT THREE SEPARATE SETS OF NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY, BEFORE AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED WOULD, WE FEEL, BE INVITING INTERRUPTION.

2. WHILE WESTERDALE HAS ALREADY NEGOTIATED AN AGREEMENT WITH LANDLORDS OVER RESTORATION OF ONNA SITE, MORE COMPLICATED NEGOTIATIONS ON OKUMA AND KADENA SITES ARE FAR FROM FINALIZED. THEY WILL PROBABLY TAKE THREE OR FOUR MORE MONTHS. TRANSFER OF KADENA HOUSING TO USAF,A DEAL BENEFICIAL TO LANDLORDS, USAF AND VOA, MUST ALSO BE REACHED AND MIGHT TAKE EIGHT MONTHS. IN ADDITION, WESTERDALE IS DISCUSSING TRANSFER-PURCHASE OF TRANS-MISSION EQUIPMENT BY TTPI WHICH, IF SUCCESSFUL, WOULD SAVE MUCH TIME AND MONEY FOR ALL PARTIES.
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EM BECAUSE OF TENDENCY OF OKINAWAN MATTERS INVOLVING USG TO SPILL OVER INTO POLITICAL FIELD, GOJ AND EMBASSY BOTH HAVE STRONG INTEREST IN HAVING VOA CLOSURE TAKE PLACE IN SMOOTHEST POSSIBLE WAY, WITH WESTERDALE REMAINING IN CHARGE THIS MIGHT BE ACHIEVED. THEREFORE, STRONGLY RECOMMEND WESTERDALE REMAIN IN OKINAWA

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SEVERAL MORE MONTHS, PREFERABLY UNTIL END OF 1977.
WE UNDERSTAND WILLIAM MILLER OF USIA WOULD LIKE DISCUSS
WESTERDALE TENURE WITH VOA DURING HIS CURRENT CONSULTA-
TION OF WASHINGTON.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TELECOMMUNICATION, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 2800881
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Subject: CLOSURE OF VOA/OKINAWA
TAGS: MARR, ETEL, JA, VOA
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Type: TE
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